



BULLETIN OF THE POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY



Airmail letter from Palestine to Polish children's camp in New Zealand. See Page 15.

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The Polonus Society is a non-profit, tax-exempt, 501(c) (3) organization incorporated in 1939 in the state of Illinois. The Society is organized exclusively for educational purposes with the objective of promoting Polish philately through the dissemination of information in the English language. The opinions expressed by the authors of articles appearing in the *Polonus Bulletin* do not necessarily reflect the views of the Polonus Philatelic Society.

Membership: Members participate in all the services and activities offered by the Society, including complete access to the Society website (www.polonus.org) and the option of receiving a quarterly bulletin in print or electronically. The two membership categories are: **Regular and Junior**. Annual dues for Regular Members **opting to receive** Printed Bulletin (via mail) are: **North America - \$30 / Outside N.A. - \$40; Electronic Bulletin (via website) North America - \$25 / Outside N.A. - \$25**. Annual dues for **Junior Members** (under age 16 and electronic bulletin only) are: **\$10**. Annual dues are payable in US funds no later than the end of March of each calendar year. Dues for new members are prorated for the time of the year application is submitted: for period **Jan- Mar 100%** of annual dues; **Apr-Jun 75%**; **Jul-Sep 50%**; **Oct-Dec 125%** (to cover full payment for following year).

Dues and Changes of Address to be sent to: Polonus Philatelic Society, PO Box 489, Rossford OH 43460

Articles for publication to be sent to: Chairman of Publication Committee

Membership queries to be sent to: Membership Chairman

General Society matters and complaints to be sent to: President

Message from the President



by Bob Ogrodnik

As I collect my thoughts a week before our meetings at the APS StampShow 2015 in Grand Rapids, the following are foremost on my mind:

- Members represent 90 frames at this exhibition, of which 49 are Polish material. We wish all well in the judging, especially the two members who are entered in the World Series Competition.
- We will be unveiling a new “Ethics Policy” and seeking approval from the membership in attendance to amend our by-laws to reflect the current organization.
- Always an objective is signing up new members and we are looking to add at least five at this show.
- We expect 24 members to attend and look forward to meeting with all, especially the newer members who are “first-timers” at Polonus annual meetings.
- We will have the Polonus Store at our society table and look forward to generating enough sales to offset our show expenses.

In that we will be releasing the September issue for print a couple days following the Grand Rapids show, the December issue of our bulletin will cover the results of this show and our 13th Annual Meetings and Exhibition.

Don't miss the article in the Society News section of this issue regarding the World Stamp Show – NY 2016, which opens in May of 2016 (nine months from this writing). This major international philatelic event is an eight-day show and we have a serious need to address the volunteering at our society table. We also need to know who will be attending and the best time to hold our annual membership meeting.

We recently experienced technical difficulty with a malfunctioning server and in the process of transferring to another server by our host company, certain data was lost, including User Registration data. An “ALERT” has been posted to the homepage of our website and issued on page 12 of this issue, explaining the action to take in the event you have difficulty with the log-in process.

In this issue you will find the first of four installments of the feature article, “Part 9: LOT Polish Airlines – Domestic and International Routes (1936 – 1939) by Kupiec-Węgliński / Kosmala. This is the story of LOT's expansion

of routes in 1936 – 1939. The “Gems of Polish Philately” article gives an example of a postcard receiving some unique franking and cancellations due to the transition in currencies of the emerging Second Republic of Poland and the former occupying guests (Russia and Austria).

The third of three installments of the feature article, “Production Flaws and Defects of the 1924 Arms of Poland ‘Orzeł’ Issue” covers the 15, 20 and 30 groszy issues. This article (all three installments) is an excellent reference in determining variations with other issues of Polish stamps, possibly a monograph for our convenience. The “Danzig Cover” brings us a rare mixed franking on a cover from Danzig to Vienna. Whereas Dr. Sandler's research revealed several examples of mixed franking using Danzig and German stamps, there are no known examples of a mixed franking using a Danzig and Polish stamp.

The second installment of “Exiled Polish Children in World War II” brings us a personal connection between the family history of one of our members and the camp that was established in New Zealand. The Polish Post in Danzig is featured in John Dunn's article “Polish Stamps at the Cinema – Port Gdańsk Issues in The Tin Drum.” The transition of the emerging Second Republic of Poland and a former occupying guest, Austria, is the backdrop for “A Hybrid Letter Displays the Earliest Use of Polish Definitives,” an article that highlights an attractive cover sent from Lwów to Vienna.

This issue includes a review of Jerzy Tokar's book, “Polish Military in WWII.” The book is in the Polish language and can be purchased from Fischer-Price and ordering instructions are included. The Polonus Store continues to be featured in this issue with some new items. Sales continue to be steady and favorable.

The Society News section contains information about our members who are continuing to excel in International Exhibitions and who are contributing, with articles in non-Polonus publications, towards our mission of promoting “collecting Poland.” We also have a member who is offering “for sale” his gold medal exhibit and collection. Another member is looking for help to complete an article for a future bulletin issue. I want to encourage others to consider inserting adlets in our bulletin, another benefit of membership. Finally, we have several New Issues as we attempt to catch-up with Poczta Polska.

We hope you enjoy this issue and we look forward to your comments.

Things are always more fun when they're shared.

Invite a friend to join Polonus.

Development of Airmail Services in Poland

Part 9: LOT Polish Airlines (1936 - 1939):

Domestic and International Routes Part 1 of 4

by Dr. Jerzy W. Kupiec-Węgliński and Jacek Kosmala

Examples of Circular Date Stamps Used at Post Offices Authorized to Dispatch Airmail in Poland (1929 -1939)					
Type	Usage	Type	Usage	Type	Usage
	Port Lotniczy Poznań 3 Kraków 2 Katowice 1 Lwów 2 from April 1, 1936		Port Lotniczy Gdynia 1 Wilno 2 from April 19, 1936		Warszawa 19 Airport 1932-1937
	Warszawa 2 "LOT" from 1934 at LOT headquarters		Warszawa 2 / i / LOT meter cancellation 1938-1939		Wilno 2 LOT after 1932

1936 – 1937:

Phase Two Expansion

In the 1930s, nine airports provided airmail services in Poland: Warszawa (Okęcie), Poznań (Ławica), Lwów (Skańków), Kraków (Rakowice), Łódź (Lublinek), Bydgoszcz (Szwederowo), Katowice (Muchowiec), Wilno (Porubanek) and Gdynia (Rumia). All except Łódź and Bydgoszcz had operational postal agencies that used special airmail cancellations (see table above).

The circular air markings, introduced in April 1936, were in black, although red was also used in Kraków and blue in Poznań. They show two stylized airplanes, a "PORT LOTNICZY" inscription and the city name / post office number. The Warszawa-Okęcie Airport used "WARSZAWA 19 PORT LOTNICZY" whereas LOT City Headquarters (at 35 Jerozolimskie Ave) used "WARSZAWA 2 / LOT" hand cancelers and meter cancellations beginning in 1938.

In the spring of 1936, LOT returned nine well-used Junkers F13s to Germany in exchange for its biggest pre-war airplane, the 17-seat Junkers Ju-52/3m airliner. With its modernized fleet, LOT continued expansion of its network to the south and north of the continent.

On October 3, 1936, the Balkan route was extended from Salonika to Athens. The inaugural flight from

Warszawa carried about 6 kg of mail and the Polish communication vice-minister Aleksander Bobkowski. Each postal item received a special circular violet cachet. After a one-hour flight, the aircraft landed in Lwów where an additional 230 letters and 80 postcards were picked up. After an unexpected overnight stay in Salonika due to bad weather, the plane landed at Tatoi Airport near Athens on October 4.

Although covers from the first postal flight to Athens are relatively common, those from the return flight to Warszawa are not. **Figure 1a** shows one of eight recorded registered items with a variety of Greek franking and circular currency control marking. Posted in Athens on October 8, 1936, and received in Warszawa on October 10, it also bears a seldom-seen Greek commemorative cachet from the return LOT flight to Poland (**Figure 1b**).

Three weeks later, on October 27, 1936, an attempt was made to further extend air service from Athens via the Italian Island of Rhodes to Haifa in the British Palestine. A test flight from Warszawa carried 350 kg of regular mail, mainly for Polish emigrants, plus 5,350 philatelic items, including 350 registered covers. Considerably less mail was loaded during a stopover in Lwów (950 letters and 250 postcards). Both cities used cachets in Polish and Hebrew, reading "First Flight-Poland / Palestine / 27-X-1936." Warszawa dispatches have violet cachets; those from Lwów



Figure 1a

are violet or black. The latter, applied on 300 letters and 100 cards, are uncommon. Shown here are three unusual items from the first test flight by LOT from Poland to Palestine in 1936. The first (Figure 2) is a registered letter from the Pol-



Figure 1b

ish Ministry of Post in Kraków (October 24) addressed to the "Bureau de Poste" in Tel Aviv. Mailed stampless as an official postage-free item, it was flown via Warszawa, where it received a special cachet, to Tel Aviv, arrival back-stamped October 30. The second item is Romanian, addressed to Haifa (Figure 3), and the third item is Bul-

garian, addressed to Jerusalem (Figure 4) mail acceptances, each with commemorative marking and arrival cancellation. The latter two are rare. For instance, only 18 registered Bucharest dispatches and perhaps even fewer Sophia dis-



Figure 2



Figure 3

patches were flown to Palestine with the Polish carrier on October 27, 1936.

Regular postal service between Poland and Palestine was launched six months later, on April 4, 1937. A journey from Warszawa to Lydda airfield (present day Ben Gurion Airport near Tel Aviv) via Athens and Rhodes Island lasted two days. Both Warszawa and Lwów provided a large number of items with cachets and bilingual postmarks. These, as well as Palestine-bound covers of 1936, are among the most common pre-war Polish special airmails. Return correspondence from Lydda to Poland on April 5, 1937, however, is unusual, especially with LOT's airmail etiquette (Figure 5).

From April 29, 1937, the northern section of the European route serviced by LOT was extended from Tallinn,



Figure 4



Figure 5

Estonia to Helsinki, Finland. The Warszawa 2 post office dispatched 1,000 pieces of mail (500 printed matter, 300 letters and 200 postcards) for the inaugural flight. These pieces bear a circular “LOT” datestamp of April 28 in black and a special cachet “Pierwszy Lot 29.IV.37 / Warszawa Helsinki / Warszawa 2” in red. During a short stopover in Wilno, an

additional 350 pieces of printed matter, 20 letters and 20 postcards were loaded on board. Although Wilno dispatches are missing circular datestamps, they all carry special cachets, in red or violet, with “Warszawa 2” replaced by “Wilno 2.” The flown post has the Helsinki arrival postmark (29.IV.37) in black.

By the end of 1937, LOT Polish Airlines had exclusive rights to operate the longest multi-sectional air route in Europe. The travel time between Helsinki and Palestine, a distance of more than 2,672 miles (4,300 km), was shortened from 10 days to just 34 hours. No other European carrier could boast of such a long air route.

The Middle East connection, known as the “Levantine Line,” was very profitable. Polish emigrants as well as a growing number of tourists visiting Egypt, Mesopotamia and beyond used it. Based on multilateral agreements, a large portion of mail from Europe to the Middle and Far East now passed through the Polish airmail network.

— To Be Continued —

The Occupation of Russia by the Polish I Corps

This monograph is the first “POLONUS HANDBOOK,” launched in January 1977. Authored by Tadeusz Gryżewski, translated by Elizabeth Gobby and edited by James Mazepa, the content includes an “Historical Sketch,” “The Fieldpost,” “Postage Stamps,” “Postal Stationery,” “Postmarks,” “Revenues” and “Forgeries.”

The story of the occupation of Russian territory (1918) by the Polish I Corps is unique, in that a foreign territory was occupied and administered by an Army belonging to no sovereign nation. This 37-page publication is very limited in supply (only 16 available) and at \$10 it should sell out.

To purchase your copy visit the Polonus Store on page 25.



The Occupation of Russia by the Polish I Corps

James Mazepa
Editor



Gems of Polish Philately

First Day of the 'High Tariffs' in the Lublin Administration

by Dr. James Mazepa

In the period after the founding of the Second Republic on November 11, 1918, the two largest postal administrations were the Warsaw Administration and the Lublin/Lwow Administrations. The Warsaw Administration used the German fenig/mark currency and the Lublin/Lwow Administrations used the Austrian halerczy/kroner currency. The unified postal rates for the Republic were scheduled to go into effect on December 10, 1918.

However, the mark and the kroner were not on par. The official exchange rate was set at 1 mark = 1.75 kroner. For some unknown reason the postal rate in kroner was delayed six days until December 16. On this day the rate for a postcard increased from 15 halerczy to 25 halerczy and a first-class letter increased from 25 halerczy to 45 halerczy. These "high tariffs" ended three weeks later on January 7/8, 1919, when the mark-based and kroner-based currencies were set to be on par.

The two dates of the 7th and 8th were needed because the new rates were announced and took effect in Lublin on the 7th and in other towns in the administration on the next day, the 8th.



The postcard shown here was posted in the former Russian occupied part of the Lublin Administration in the town of Lubartowa on December 16, 1918, the first day of the new higher postal rates. The typical Austrian fieldpost card and stamp were used to pay the old 10 halerczy rate. The card has a postage due note of "T.28h," which corresponds to a double indemnity at the old mark/kroner conversion rate to make up the 15 halerczy deficit.

The card was sent first to Warsaw where it received the Warsaw military censor cache "Wr.1." and rectangular civil border control cache before being sent onto Russia. The censor's initials can be seen in the lower right corner.

Polonus Bulletin Procedures and Deadlines

Deadline

Deadline for the receipt of articles, letters, advertising and news is the first of the second month of the quarter. For example, we need everything for the June issue by May 1, everything for the September issue by August 1, etc. The preferred method of receiving copy is via an email attachment. Please send as an MS Word document. We also welcome compact disks (CDs). Hard copy is acceptable but it must be rekeyed so we prefer electronic transmission.

Illustrations

The most effective way to transmit illustrations is electronically. They should be TIF or JPEG, scanned at no less than 150 dpi and attached to an email. They can also be sent on CD. We can also retrieve copy and illustrations from electronic storage if provided with the correct routing.

DO NOT put the illustrations into a Word document before attaching to an email. Word has preset parameters that allows me to copy the image and place it in Photoshop but does not allow the editor to manipulate the image for color, clarity, sharpness or contrast. It's our goal to produce the best illustrations possible and this cannot be done using Word.

Production Flaws and Defects of the 1924 Arms of Poland ‘Orzeł’ Issue

Plate Flaws Part 3 of 3

by Dr. Edwin J. Andrews

15 Groszy

The 15 groszy has two reported plate flaws [2]. Following are previously unreported flaws. **Figure 51** shows a dot in the counter of the letter “P” of POLSKA and a dot above the POCZTA POLSKA tablet between the words and affecting the integrity of the frame lines. Neither of these flaws has been reported.

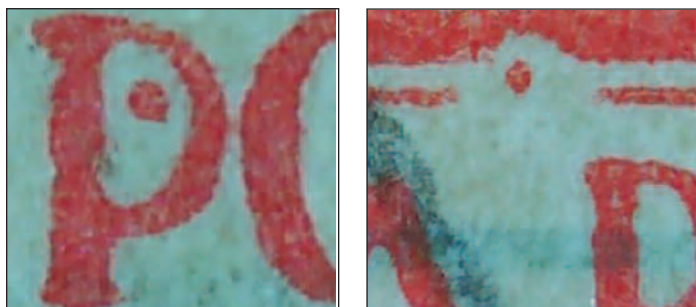


Figure 51
Dot in the counter of the letter “P” of POLSKA (left image) and a dot above the top tablet affecting the frame lines. Neither of these has been previously reported.

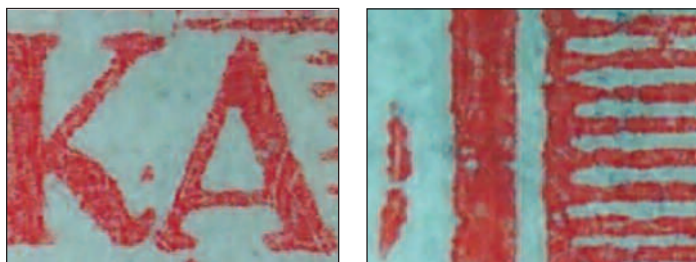


Figure 52
Dot between the “KA” of POLSKA (left image) and plate scratch (right image) in left margin.

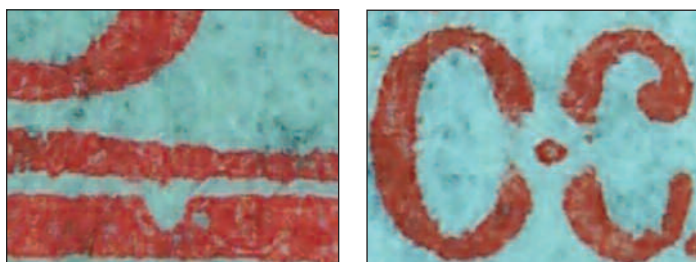


Figure 53
Left image shows a gouge in the lower frame line under the left “5” and right image, a dot and breaks between the letters “OC” of POCZTA.

The 15 groszy stamp appears to have the most flaws compared to other denominations. There is no clear explanation for this as the denomination was not the most fre-

quently printed. Other new discoveries for this denomination are a dot between the “KA” of POLSKA and a scratch in the left margin, both shown in **Figure 52**.

Figure 53 shows two additional flaws not previously reported: a gouge in the lower frame line under the left “5;” a dot and breaks between the letters “OC” of POCZTA.

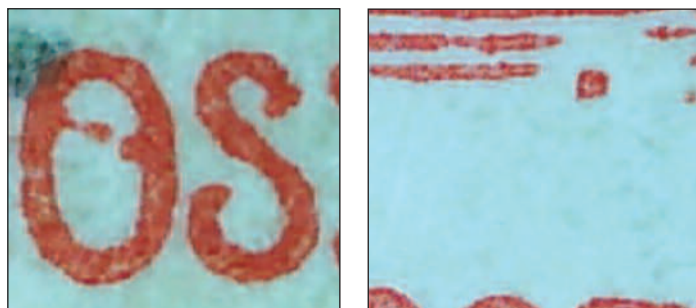


Figure 54
Plate scratch (left image) through “O” of GROSZY, and right image, break in shade lines and dot above “SZ.”

An unreported plate scratch through the “O” of GROSZY is shown in **Figure 54**. Also shown are a break in the shade lines and a dot above the “SZ.”



Figure 55
Examples of a worn “O” in POLSKA. Note also the breaks in the frame line above.

Plate wear often affects letters in the top tablet and for the 15 groszy stamp the “O” in POLSKA appears most susceptible. **Figure 55** shows examples of this wear. A broken frame line above the “OC” of POCZTA is also shown in **Figure 56**.



Figure 56
Break of the inner frame line above the “OC” of POCZTA.

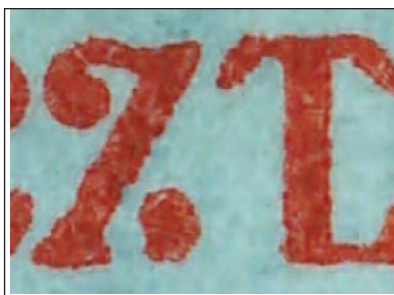


Figure 57
Break in the bottom of "Z" and broken left foot serif of the "T" in POCZTA.



Figure 58
Left image shows early wear of the right head serif of the letter "L" of POLSKA. Right image shows more advanced wear of entire head serif along with breaks in the letter "K" and the shade line above.



Figure 59
Left image is a short "Y" flaw while right image is an unreported break in the right arm of the "Y" of GROSZY.

a flaw for the 15 groszy stamp. **Figure 59** shows a short tail "Y" along with another discovery, a broken right arm of the "Y."

20 Groszy

The 20 groszy denomination has only one reported flaw, the broken head serif of the "L" of POLSKA. Following are newly discovered plate flaws for this denomination. In Part 2 of this article (Bulletin #559, pp 16-19) we showed an example of a damaged wreath on the 2 grosze stamp (refer to **Figure 29**, Bulletin #559, Page 16) is also seen on the 20 groszy stamp but in the upper left corner of the stamp design. **Figure 60** shows two examples of this defect, validating it as a true plate flaw.

Several different dots are also found on this denomination. A dot below the "R" of GROSZY and one shifted to between the "RO" are shown in **Figure 61**. Neither of these has been previously reported.



Figure 60
Same plate defect in upper left design on two different stamps.



Figure 61
Examples of unreported dots below R and RO of GROSZY.



Figure 62 shows additional dots. One between the "SK" of POLSKA and another below the "S" of GROSZY. Neither of these has been reported.



Figure 62
Left image has dot between "SK" of POLSKA, and right image, a dot at the base of the "S" in GROSZY.



Figure 63
Two examples of a spur of the right "20" attaching it to the adjacent scroll.

A spur resembling over-inking also occurs on the

right numeral “20.” **Figure 63** shows two examples, verifying it as a true plate defect.

Two other flaws found on the 20 groszy denomination are a broken base of the “O” and broken right head serif of the “L” of POLSKA. These flaws occur at plate position 12 as found on a margin block (former Larking collection); refer to **Figure 64**. Also shown in **Figure 64** is a break in the shade lines adjacent to the right fascies.

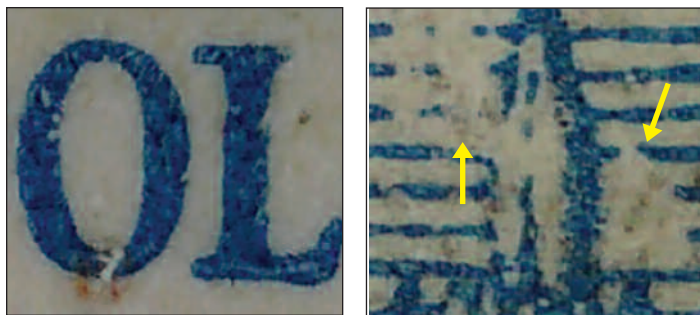


Figure 64
Break in the base of the “O” and break in the right head serif of “L” of POLSKA (left image). These are from plate position 12. Right image shows breaks in the shade lines adjacent to the right fascies.

25 Groszy

Several flaws are reported for the 25 groszy stamp. **Figure 65** shows an unreported break in the “C” of POCZTA.

Another flaw is a break in the lines above the “RO” of GROSZY [2]. Early and late stages of this break are shown in **Figure 66**.



Figure 65
Unreported broken “C” of POCZTA.

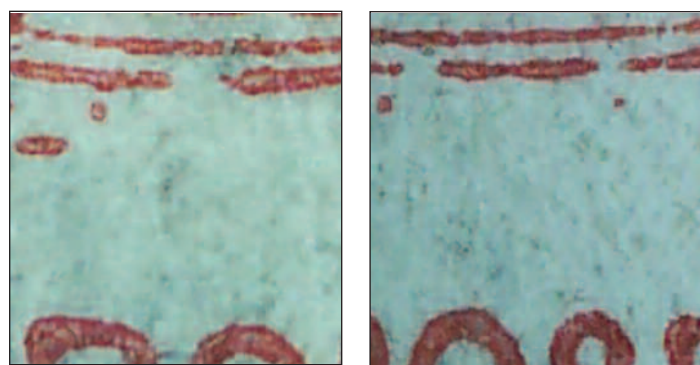


Figure 66
Left image is an early state of the line break over the “RO” of GROSZY. Right image shows a later state; also note additional adjacent line breaks.

30 Groszy

There are no reported plate flaws for the 30 groszy stamp. Accordingly, the following are new discoveries. **Figure 67** shows a broken “R” of GROSZY and an adjacent

image of a broken outline to the left upper leaf of the laurel wreath.

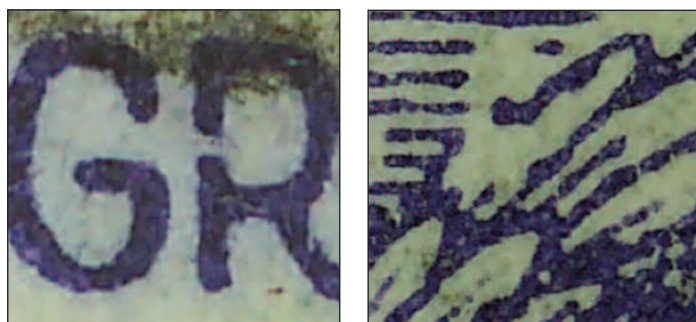


Figure 67
Broken “R,” left, and broken leaf outline, right, previously unreported.

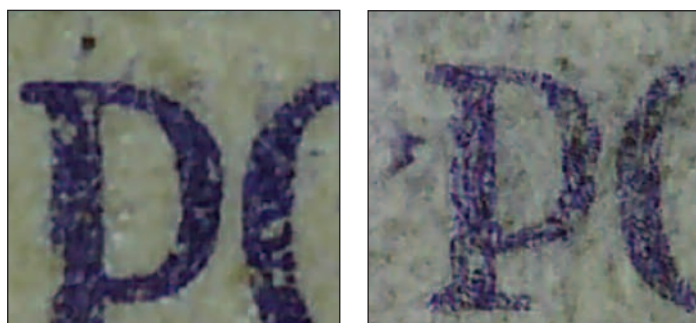


Figure 68
Left image is dot above “P” and right image dot to left of “P” of POLSKA. Neither dot has been reported.

The other flaws found are a dot above, and one to the left of, the “P” in POLSKA (**Figure 68**).

A last finding for the 30 groszy stamp is a plate scratch adjacent to the right ribbon (**Figure 69**).

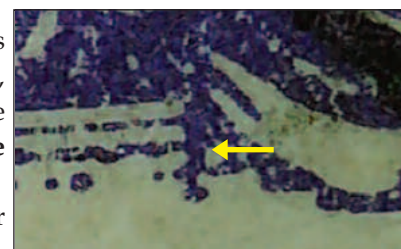


Figure 69
Vertical plate scratch at edge of right ribbon tail.

40 and 50 Groszy

The reported flaws for the 40 and 50 groszy stamps



Figure 70
Broken inner line of right scroll.

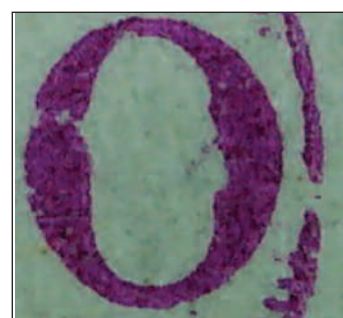


Figure 71
Broken inner line of right scroll. Note also the deformation of the adjacent “O” of “50.”

are spots on various parts of the design [2]. These are likely not true plate flaws but debris as previously shown. Following are new discoveries for these denominations. **Figure 70** shows a break of the inner line of the right scroll on the 40 groszy. **Figure 71** shows a similar scroll line break on a 50 groszy stamp. In this case there is also an early break and deformation of the adjacent “0” in the numeral “50.”



Figure 72
Break in the “0” of the left numeral “50.”



Figure 73
Deformed letter “O” of POLSKA.

An unreported crack in the “0” of the left numeral “50” has also been found, as seen in **Figure 72**. Another deformation can be found in the letter “O” of POLSKA as shown in **Figure 73**.

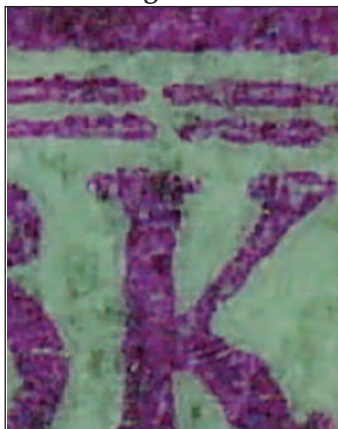
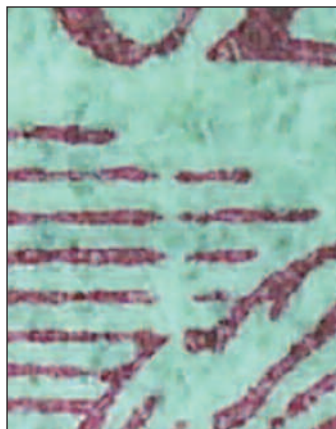


Figure 74
Left image shows a clear break in inner frame lines above the “K” of POLSKA. The right image shows vertical breaks in the shade lines under the “C” of POCZTA extending into the outline of the leaf on the laurel wreath.



As we have seen in other denominations, plate wear will result in both frame and shading line breaks. **Figure 74** shows examples of these line breaks in the 50 groszy stamp design.

Conclusion

Over the nine years of production there were 33 different printing runs producing 453,594,000, or nearly one half billion, stamps. It is little wonder that plate wear and printing flaws are found in this issue. Given the large number of new discoveries presented in this article it is likely that diligent inspection of stamps from this issue will produce additional inking, printing and plate flaws.

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If you are not able to log-in to our website click on **REGISTRATION** in the upper left corner of the homepage. Please complete and re-submit a new Registration Form. You will receive an email from Polonus confirming when your new registration is activated and ready to use.

Our former website hosting company made an error which resulted in the loss of part of our registration data. We apologize for this inconvenience and thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

The Editor Talks About Illustrations

Since the June issue of the Polonus Bulletin was published, I received two articles with illustrations that were difficult or impossible to process.

One came with two illustrations embedded in a Word document. Word sets illustrations parameters that don't allow me to make all the changes and adjustments required to produce the highest quality figures. Please attach 300-dpi jpegs or tifs directly to the email.

Illustrations for the other article are virtually unusable. Many were taken off the internet and are only 96 dpi (dots per inch). That's not unusual: web illustrations require less dpi than print and many people who post on the web use low resolution to keep others from gleaning usable images.

The other problem with low-resolution images is that they come in a size that is not 100 percent. I have no way of knowing the correct size and sometimes, if the actual size is smaller than what I receive, I can make a low-resolution scan work. I don't have any way of knowing what 100 percent is and must rely on the author to tell me. If I don't have that information, I can't use the images.

Feel free to email me (vcanfieldp@gmail.com) if you have questions or need assistance.

Danzig Cover: Discovery of a Rare Mixed Franking from 1931

by Dr. Stanley R. Sandler

(Reprinted from the April 2015 *American Philatelist*)



Figure 1

A well-known Polish stamp dealer,¹ who was familiar with my interests,^{2,3} brought to my attention a mixed franking Danzig cover that appeared to him to be unusual and one not seen before from this time period. After acquiring this cover (**Figure 1**), I immediately set out to determine if it was truly rare.

A brief review of Danzig's postal history between 1920 and 1939 reveals that the Free City of Danzig at one time had two postal authorities, one German (which handled all Danzig mail to all locations and required Danzig postage stamps) and the other a Polish post office (located at Hevelius Square in 1925 and which handled only mail from Danzig to Poland using Polish stamps overprinted "Port Gdansk"). Mixed-franking covers at Danzig post offices were not permitted, and Polish stamps could not be added. However, the German-run Danzig post offices probably permitted German stamps to be used along with Danzig stamps for mail sent to Germany and to the rest of Europe such as Vienna, Austria.

The dual postal system was setup in 1919 after World War I by the terms of the Treaty of Versailles under the sponsorship of the League of Nations. From the start, this dual postal system was the source of conflict between Poland and Germany. After the Third Reich came to power in 1933, this and other conflicts eventually led to the invasion of Danzig (and Poland) by Germany on September 1, 1939, and the start of World War II.

The cover has both a 5-pfennig Danzig stamp (Scott

179) and a 10-groszy Polish stamp (Scott 269). It has a cancellation date of 4 3 32 (March 4, 1932), and the stamps are tied by a German slogan cancellation (*Kinder Hungern – Hilf durch Spenden* = Children Going Hungry – Help by Donations). Thus, it is obvious that the cover was handled by German postal authorities at the Danzig post office, whose clerks failed to notice that it included a 10 Gr Polish stamp rather than the required 10 pf Danzig stamp. The letter was allowed to be mailed to Wien (Vienna, Austria), presumably because the clerk focused only on the total of "15" in the denominations and mistakenly thought it met the proper 15 pf postage rate for an international letter mailed from Danzig at that time.⁴

To check whether this Danzig cover with a Polish stamp is rare, a well-known Polish postal history expert⁵ was contacted by Bieniecki Int'l Inc. The expert said that he was not aware of such a cover existing and being used in the mails from Danzig. To confirm his conclusion, a thorough literature search was then carried out at the American Philatelic Research Library. There were no articles on this subject in the back issues of either *The American Philatelist* or the *Polonus Bulletin*. Nor were there any articles in the German Philatelic Society journals dealing with Danzig.

A search of selected stamp auction catalogues uncovered several other examples of mixed-franking covers from Danzig, but none with Polish stamps. These included:

- A 1931 mixed-franking Danzig cover (**Figure 2**) that was mailed from Danzig to Hamburg, Germany. It was franked with a 15pf Danzig stamp and a 15pf German stamp showing President Paul von Hindenburg.⁶ It is interesting to note that it includes the same German slogans shown in the first illustration. This cover might be another rarity.

- Covers from 1940 with Danzig stamps overprinted "Deutsches Reich" affixed alongside a German stamp. This was more common after the German invasion of Danzig and Poland on September 1, 1939. In fact, following the German invasion, the mail from occupied Danzig was allowed with Danzig stamps that were overprinted with "Deutsches Reich." These mail pieces also could include additional German stamps.

- Danzig stamps after September 1, 1939, that were over-

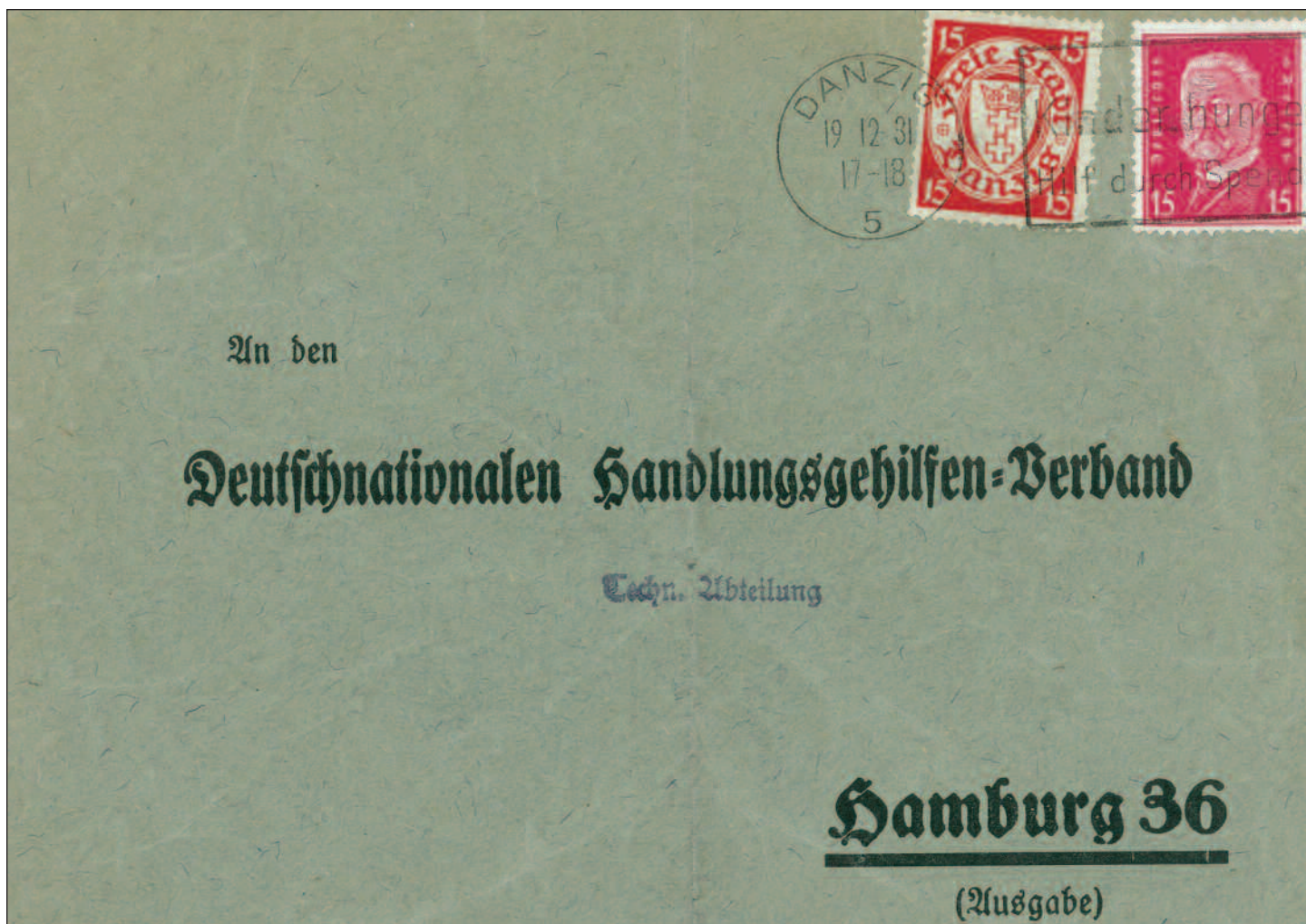


Figure 2

printed with “Deutsches Reich” were allowed to be used anywhere in Germany as regular postage stamps. These covers did not have to be mailed from Danzig.

In summary, all the evidence to date indicates that my Danzig cover, bearing both a Danzig stamp and a Polish stamp and mailed from a German post office in Danzig to Vienna, is a rarity and potentially unique.

Acknowledgments

My thanks to Hank Bieniecki, a well-known Polish stamp dealer of Bieniecki Int'l Inc. for bringing this cover with a Danzig and a Polish stamp to my attention, and for his generous help contacting his associates and a Polish postal history expert in Poland for his opinion. I also want to thank him for his comments and useful suggestions.

I also want to acknowledge the help of Scott Tiffney of the American Philatelic Research Library for his detailed search in the area of mixed-franking Danzig stamp covers.

The opinions of Ralph Schneider, a well-known German stamp dealer, were very helpful.

Endnotes

1. Hank Bieniecki of Bieniecki Int'l Inc., P.O. Box 760, Maryville, IL 62062 (www.biistamp.com/).

2. Stanley R. Sandler, “The Story Behind an 1898 Picture Postcard from Danzig/Gdansk,” *The American Philatelist*, Vol. 127, No. 7 (July 2013): 652–654.

3. Stanley R. Sandler, “German Propaganda Against ‘The Polish Corridor’ in 1931,” *The American Philatelist*, Vol. 128, No. 5 (May 2014): 458–459.

4. For postal rates for Danzig from 1919–1945 see: <http://si-jtzereurich.com/>.

5. Zbigniew Korszen, Expert of the Polish Philatelists Union, P.O. Box 82, 00-950 Warsaw 1, Poland.

6. *Gothic Stamps*, P.O. Box 365, Brush, CO 80723 and <http://www.germanpostalhistory.com/php/viewitem.php?itemid=56681>.

The Author

Dr. Stanley R. Sandler is the president of the Havertown Stamp Club in Havertown, Pennsylvania. He has a strong interest in the postal history of Danzig/Gdansk and Poland as well as in U.S. airmail, fakes & forgeries worldwide, and fancy postmarks & cancellations of the U.S. 1860s. He is a 27-year member of the APS and a member of the Polonus Philatelic Society.

Exiled Polish Children in World War II - Part 2

'Scattered Across Four Continents'

by Jan Niebrzydowski

In the spring and summer of 1942, thousands of Polish civilians, including children, were evacuated by sea from Krasnovodsk in the Soviet Union to Pahlevi in Persia (Iran). A small group went overland from Ashgabad (Turkmenia) to Mashhad (Iran). Following a period of disinfection and quarantine they were sent to transit camps in Ahvaz, Isfahan, Mashhad and Teheran.

The younger children were gradually transferred to long-term camps in India, New Zealand, Lebanon, Mexico, British colonies in South-East Africa and the Republic of South Africa, where the largest number found refuge. Those in their teens were sent, along with their tutors, to schools in Palestine. Anyone sending a letter from these camps had to pay postage according to the local tariffs. Here are examples of such letters from my collection:

Figure 1 is a registered cover sent via Polish Field Post Office nr. 114 dated June 20, 1943 (Army of General Władysław Anders) to camp nr. 2 in Teheran.

India provided both temporary and permanent accommodations. Temporary camps were set up in Bandera and Karachi and permanent ones in Balachadi and Valivade. There was also a health center for sick in Panchgani. The Balachadi camp was funded entirely by Maharaja Jam Saheba Divgijay Sinhji from his own purse. We owe him a lasting debt of gratitude. Illustrated in **Figure 2** is an airmail letter from the Panchgani health center to United States dated November 14, 1945. It is the only one I know that was sent from that particular place.

An airmail letter from Valivade to England dated

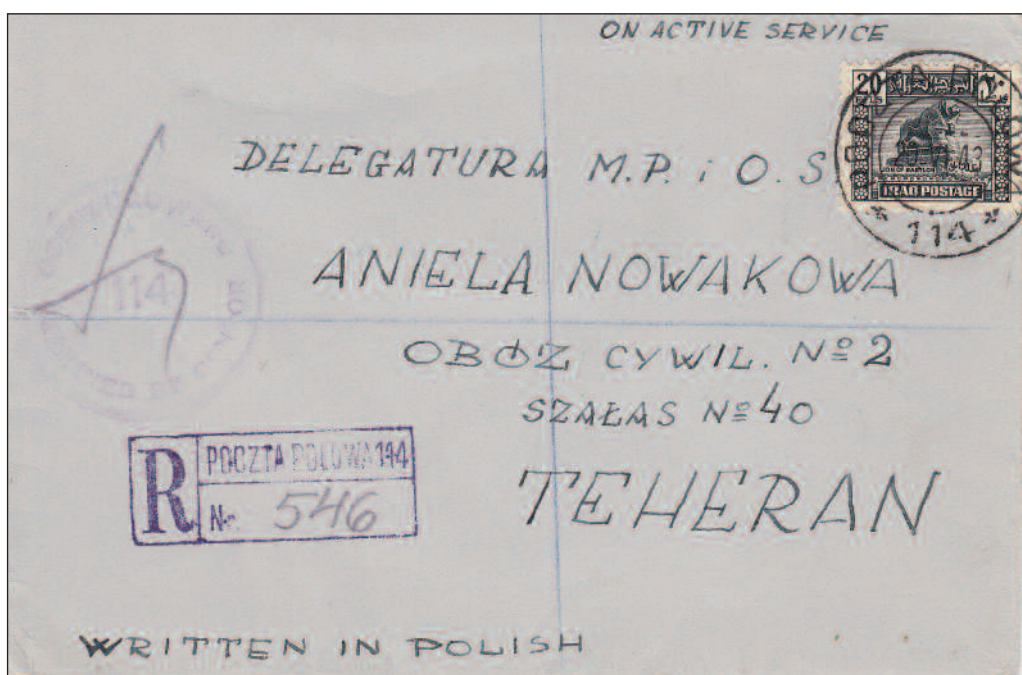


Figure 1



Figure 2

February 10, 1948, is shown in **Figure 3**. It bears a rectangular cachet: "Polish Children Orphanage of Gen. W. Sikorski Valivade, Kohlapur."



Figure 3

There was a branch of the Polish Red Cross which looked after Polish exiles in India.

Figure 4 is a Polish Red Cross letter from Bombay to Miss Helena Lübke in Switzerland with information about a mother and daughter housed in the Valivade camp. If you will recall earlier articles, Helena Lübke provided trans-mailing services to Poles in occupied and allied countries who were interred in POW and refugee camps.

Only one camp was set up in New Zealand at Pahitua. It housed 732 children and 102 adults. After the war the New Zealand government allowed them to remain in the country indefinitely. Those wishing to continue education could do so either in state or in the Catholic convent schools.

Figure 5 illustrates an airmail letter posted via the Polish Field Post Office nr. 141 in Nazareth, Palestine on July 22, 1945, to the Polish children's camp in Pahiatua, New



Figure 4

Zealand. The letter is from Zbigniew Sojka who was attending army cadet school.

My final example is a letter from Pahiatua (see **Figure 6**) written by a Polish tutor to Wiesia Rubisz, an orphaned child attending a Catholic school in Napier.



Figure 5

For background information please see Przemysław

Drzewiecki, "Scattered Over Four Continents 1942-45."

Endnote

It is always exciting when we can make a personal connection to our collecting. This article, referencing refugee camps in New Zealand, ties in with the family history of Polonus member Adrian Worman of New Zealand, whose roots lie in the city of Lwów (presently L'viv). Adrian's grandfather Antonni Dąbrowski, a colonel in the Polish Army, was taken prisoner by the Soviets. His remains were uncovered among thousands of others in the mass graves in the Katyn Forest. Adrian's grandmother and mother were sent to Siberia (camp unknown) by rail cattle car. Two of his

grandmother's male siblings were shipped to the Kolyma Labor Camp (gulag/gold mine). They were among those released when General Anders was forming his Polish forces. Both joined and participated in the battles (including Monte Cassino) to liberate Europe. Adrian's sister recounts the story:

"Ma and Babcia spent two years in Siberia and then were able to get to Isfahan and later Teheran (both in Persia or today's Iran) in Polish camps from where they travelled by boat to New Zealand. Babcia was a supervisor of boys in the camps. They arrived in New Zealand on 1 November 1944. Ma and Babcia were relocated to the Pahiatua camp which had been a military camp from 1942. They spent eight years there and all their classes were in Polish as it was anticipated that they would return to Poland after the war. When the communists took over Poland, it became evident that returning to their homeland would not be possible and so they were allowed to stay in New Zealand. When they started to integrate more with New Zealand life, Babcia and Ma were billeted with Mrs. Hamer in Eastbourne."



Figure 6

What's the most interesting item in your collection?
Write about it in the Polonus Bulletin!

Polish Stamps at the Cinema

Port Gdańsk Issues in *The Tin Drum*

by John Dunn

Both Marshal Piłsudski and his foreign minister, Józef Beck, saw the Free City of Danzig (Gdansk) as a "barometer" for German intentions towards Poland. All efforts to reduce privileges granted by the Versailles Treaty were immediately contested by Poland. Starting with the Wicher Incident (June 15, 1932), when a destroyer entered the port without invitation, Poland made clear she would tolerate no limitations of her treaty rights.

An example of this was the Polish Post Office in Danzig. Versailles, along with several conventions (1920-1921), created this system. Never liked by the majority of Danzingers, these were, nevertheless, seen, along with the Westerplatte depot, as symbols of Polish sovereignty. Piłsudski and his heirs fought too hard for the right of sovereignty and would bow to neither Weimar Republic nor Third Reich.

As the barometer started shifting toward red in 1939, an engineer officer and some weapons were sent to Danzig's main Polish post office. Most of the employees were army reservists or members of paramilitary groups, and planned to defend the building for a day, until relieved by regular troops from Poland.

This might seem like a bad idea, especially in light of the massive force that blitzkrieged into Poland on September 1. Readers might recall, however, that it was unclear what would happen if the Germans took over all of Danzig without a shot, then stopped their offensive and called for a truce. Would Poland's powerful allies insist on renegotiating Versailles in that case?

Warsaw deemed armed resistance as vital to protecting Polish rights. The fighting started very early on the morning of September 1. Despite being armed with only rifles, a few light machine guns and grenades, the postal workers repelled three Nazi assaults. The addition of medium artillery, flamethrowers plus a bullet-proof armored car, finally tipped the scales in favor of the Germans, ending the fight that evening. Foreshadowing the hell-come-to-earth inflicted by the Third Reich on occupied Europe, almost all the defenders were killed on the spot or executed after conviction by a kangaroo court.

A dramatic, and reasonably accurate film portrayal of this event features bit parts played by Port Gdansk stamps. Directed by Volker Schlöndorff, and based on the novel by Günter Grass, *The Tin Drum* (1979), looks at Germans and Kashubians living in Danzig between 1900-1945.



A stamp cancelling scene from *The Tin Drum*

A main character works in the Polish Post Office and there are several stamp-cancelling scenes, along with a dramatic post office battle, where a safe blows up, causing a Port Gdansk stamp to float onto the back of a dead defender.

Schlöndorff was not the first to place the Polish Post Office in film. "Wolne miasto," a feature length film from 1958, focused exclusively on the postal workers, their lives right before the fighting and the battle of September 1, 1939. There are no clear images of stamps, however. The writers have not seen the 2014 production retelling this story, "14 godzin – pierwsi w walce," but we ask, is "The Tin Drum" the only film that depicts Polish stamps? How about it Pol-unus readers, can you nominate another contender for a philatelic Oscar?

"Wolne miasto" (1958) is online at: <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ucx-de3xaVs>>.

Some stills from "14 godzin – pierwsi w walce," can be found at <<http://kfp.pl/page,propozycja,id,12375,-tytul,14%20GODZIN%20-%20FILM%20O%20OBRONIE%20POCZTY%20POLSKIEJ%20W%20GDA%20C5%83SKU,index.php>>

1 For more details see the multi-lingual Polish Post Office Museum in Gdansk at:

<http://mhmg.pl/oddzial/16/polish-post-museum-in-gdansk>.

Edward Nowak Sr also has a great philatelic article reprinted from *Stamp News*, see:

http://www.stampnewsnow.com/PDF_Pages-/1-Poland.pdf

**Enhance your collecting experience by
joining a Polonus Study Group.
Information can be found on Page 2.**

A Hybrid Letter Displays the Earliest Use of Polish Definitives

by Ingrid Kuzych



Figure 1
This hybrid registered international letter sent from Lwów to Vienna on January 25, 1919 shows the earliest known use of Polish definitives.

The attractive and colorful cover in **Figure 1** may be described as a philatelic hybrid. The item was dispatched from Lwów, known as Lemberg in the Austro-Hungarian Empire until November 1918, to Vienna, Austria on January 25, 1919. Even though the letter carries Polish stamps and a Polish military censor marking, the canceling device, the registration etiquette and the address all still resonate as “Austrian” and create an interesting mixed-breed letter.

Brief Historical Background

Before describing the cover in detail a historical overview is necessary to explain how (and perhaps why) it came to be created. Lemberg was the capital of Galicia, the largest crownland (province) in the Austrian portion of the dual monarchy. Galicia was almost evenly split ethnically between the Poles and Ukrainians (referred to as Ruthenians by the Austrians). While western Galicia was solidly Polish, eastern Galicia was overwhelmingly Ukrainian except for the capital and larger towns, where the Poles were in the

majority. Unfortunately, that is where the trouble started and where the two Slavic cousin-nations ended up warring with each other.

During the fall of 1918, it became obvious that multi-ethnic Austria-Hungary would be on the losing side in the Great War (World War I) that had been raging for four years. During October of that year the various ethnic groups in the Empire set about making plans for self determination. These included both the Poles and Ukrainians of Galicia.

By late October, as the war wound down, western Galicia essentially became a Polish autonomous territory and plans were under way to annex eastern Galicia as well. The aim was to unite all Polish territories as well as to incorporate all lands where the Polish people had been historically and culturally dominant. An understanding was reached with the Austrian governor that Lemberg would be turned over to Polish officials on November 1.

The Ukrainians in Lemberg who, while not in the majority, still accounted for a substantial segment of the pop-

ulace, found out about the Polish plans. During the night of October 31 - November 1, Ukrainian troops that had formerly served in the Austrian Army took over the capital city and the rest of Eastern Galicia in a bloodless coup. The takeover went off without a hitch: all non-Ukrainian troops (Austrian, German, or Hungarian) were disarmed and all major governmental buildings (e.g., city hall, railroad station, post office) were occupied. Proclamations, printed at the behest of the new Ukrainian National *Rada* (council), were mounted throughout the city – now renamed Lviv – proclaiming the creation of a Ukrainian state and urging the people of the country to maintain peace and order.

It was not long, however, before the Polish inhabitants of the city took to the streets and all-out fighting began. Although initially the Ukrainians found themselves on the defensive, their numbers were soon bolstered by the legionnaires of the Ukrainian *Sich* Riflemen who arrived from the city of Chernivtsi in the former Hungarian part of the em-

pire. Over the next few weeks the fortunes of battle varied, but gradually the Ukrainians began to make advances. However, on November 20, the Poles broke through the encirclement of Lviv with a substantial relief force of men and field guns. These reinforcements tipped the balance of power in the Poles' favor and during the night of November 21-22, the Ukrainian troops were compelled to vacate the city. Nevertheless, they remained positioned in the surrounding environs.

For the entire winter and well into spring of 1919, the city, which now went by the Polish appellation of Lwów, was essentially besieged. Sometimes it was completely cut off from the west; at other times maintaining communications with the outside world only through a tenuous western railroad link to Przemyśl.

Postal Dueling

It was not just militarily, but also ideologically, that



Figure 2

Cover mailed December 8, 1918 from Stanislaw to Tlumach showing two of the four Western Ukrainian stamps of the Lviv Issue. Prepared and released on November 20 in Lviv/Lwów, these overprinted stamps were only used in Stanislaw for a few weeks in December 1918

the two national groups confronted each other. Earlier, during the weeks that Lemberg/Lviv was still held by the Ukrainians, a Western Ukrainian stamp set was created, in part to reinforce the Ukrainian claim to the city. Completed on November 20, 1918, the stamp set (Western Ukraine Scott 1-4, **Figure 2**) consisted of four old Austrian stamp values from 1916 and 1917 overprinted with a “Western Ukr[ainian] National Republic” inscription and a rearing lion image. The stamps were never released in Lviv since the completion date coincided with the Polish breakthrough in the city. Instead they were issued in Stanyslaviv (Stanislawow), the city to which a number of Western Ukrainian officials had transferred. The earliest known use for these stamps is December 8, 1918 in Stanyslaviv.

Meanwhile, in newly independent Poland, postal provisionals were also being created: overprinting or surcharging German-occupation stamps (Warsaw issues) or old Austrian military and definitive stamps (Lublin and Cracow issues). A new country wants new stamps and a major effort was made to design and disseminate Poland’s first definitive stamps as quickly as possible. By late January, two full series (perforate and imperforate) were ready, one with values in fenigi and marks for use in Northern Poland (the area formerly part of the Russian Empire but then occupied by Germany through most of the war) and another denominated in halerzy and koronas for Southern Poland (the Galician lands of the Austro-Hungarian Empire). The new stamps were seen as a manifestation of Polish sovereignty and were distributed to post offices throughout greater Poland and western Galicia. Some were even dispatched to Lwów to bolster Polish claims to that city.

It is at this point we can return to the main topic of this article, the hybrid cover that displays a remarkable use of the first Polish definitives.

Earliest Known Use

The registered letter was sent by an R. Kubitzky (address on reverse) from Lwów post office 7 (Kasimiergasse) to a Mr. Walter Müller at the Austrian Credit Agency for Trade and Business in Vienna. Because Poland was engaged in a military struggle, all mails within Lwów were subject to censorship. A violet military censor mark appears in the center

of the cover; the penciled “10” on the left and the inscription on the lower left are likely also censor markings.

All Polish catalogs, as well as all major international catalogs, describe the official issue date of Poland’s first definitive stamps as January 27, 1919. While none of the four cancels on the cover are perfectly clear, they certainly are legible; the cancellation on the lower right shows the 25 January 25, 1919 date most distinctly.

Polonus experts Jacek Kosmala, Jim Mazepa and Robert Ogrodnik have examined the illustrated hybrid cover, which they feel does show earliest known usage, concur that it is genuine and represents a Polish philatelic rarity.

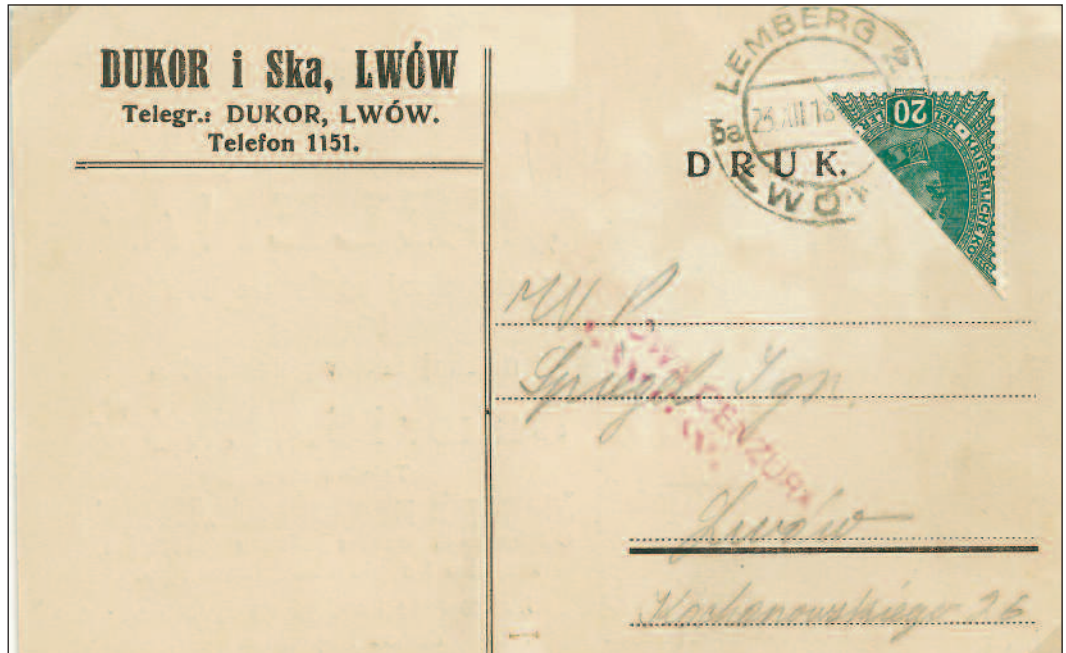


Figure 3
Postcard mailed within Lwów on December 23, 1918, bears a bisected old Austrian 20-heller stamp to pay the 10-halerzy rate. Because the city was in a state of semi-siege, shortages of certain stamps necessitated creative measures to come up with needed stamp values.

The surprising early use of these stamps in Lwów likely took place for two reasons, but the first and most important was the fact that stamps (or at least certain stamp values) had become scarce in the city. **Figure 3** shows a postcard mailed in Lwów December 23, 1918 (i.e., one month before the hybrid letter) carrying a bisected old Austrian 20-heller stamp to pay the 10-halerzy card rate. (This item is genuine and has been expertized.) The 10-heller stamps were apparently no longer available, forcing the Lwów post office to create substitutes. I have seen one other instance of a late-1918 use of a bisected stamp on a postcard from Lwów. When the new Polish definitive stamps arrived in the city towards the end of January, they were immediately put to use.

The second motivation for the early stamp release was likely to publicize Poland’s claim to Lwów to the outside world. The colorful stamps on the cover all displaying

the Polish coat of arms would draw attention to the fact that the city was now in Polish hands.

While there is no doubt that the letter did travel through the mails, it is astonishing that this registered item is underfranked by 2 halerzy. It should have carried 50

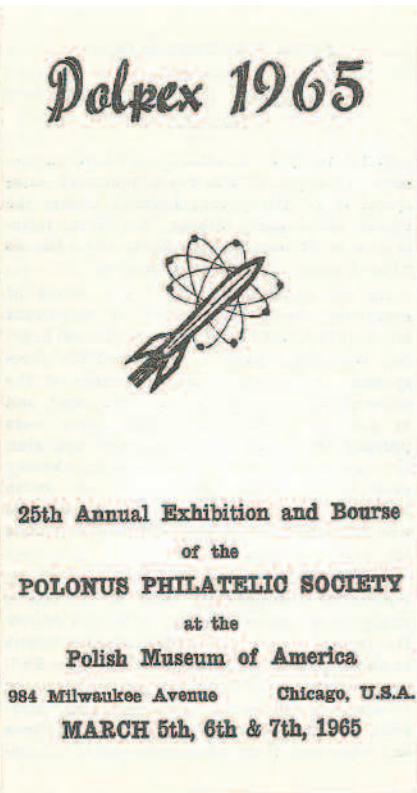
halerzy in stamps (25 halerzy for the letter rate and 25 halerzy for registration) yet the six stamps only total 48 halerzy.

I welcome comments on this discovery and/or on my musings on its place in Polish philatelic history.

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It Was 50 Years Ago . . .

POLPEX 1965 was held March 5, 6 and 7, 1965, at the Polish Museum of America on Milwaukee Avenue in Chicago. This was the 25th Annual Exhibition and Bourse of the Polonus Philatelic Society.

In recognition of the tremendous interest in outer space at the time, Polonus considered it fitting to honor the Polish astronomer, Mikołaj Kopernik (Nicolaus Copernicus in Latin); regarded as "The Father of Modern Astronomy." The souvenir sheet features a stamp from Poland's Warsaw Monument Series of 1955. The background of the sheet portrays the solar system as perceived by Copernicus, with the sun placed in the center. The bar of music at the top is from a folk song directed to a star, much in the vein of "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star."

Included with the set of two souvenir sheets is a descriptive folder. There were 2,000 sets issued and the Polonus store (see page 25) has a limited supply remaining.



Polonus Philatelic Society News



Polonus Exhibitors Excel in London

The International Stamp Exhibition, 2015 EUROPHILEX, was held in London on May 13 - 16. A trio of Polonus members participated and received high awards.

Julian Auleytner received 92 Points and a Gold Medal with F.E.L. (Felicitations of the Jury) for his eight-frame exhibit, *Beginnings of the Post in Independent Poland 1918-20*.

Ingert Kuzych garnered 86 Points and a Large Vermeil Medal for his five-frame exhibit, *Lemberg: Cosmopolitan Crownland Capital of the Austrian Empire*.

Jacek Kosmala received 85 Points and a Large Vermeil Medal for his one-frame exhibit, *Aerial Formations of the General Haller 'Blue' Army and the French Military Mission in Poland 1917-1923*.

Congratulations to these three for their successful participation in the first multi-class exhibition in London with the patronage of the European Federation (FEPA).

Polonus Authors Promote Collecting Poland

The June issue of the *American Philatelist* has an article by Dr. Julian Auleytner titled "Polish-Russian Postal Relations -Spanning the Years 1918 Through 1921." From a philatelic perspective, this was a very interesting time as Poland regained its independence and Russia was embroiled in civil war. It was also the time when postal communications were the only way in which people could pass on information. However, the transition in Poland and Russia led to undelivered letters and postcards. This article reveals this postal history through several rare pieces of undelivered mail. Congratulations to Dr. Auleytner for giving the large American Philatelic Society membership a glimpse of collecting Poland.

Another member active in writing articles for the *American Philatelist* and *Polonus Bulletin* is Dr. Stanley R. Sandler. His "Danzig Cover" articles appears in this issue.

The March issue of the *Polonus Bulletin* featured another of his articles, "German Propaganda Against 'The Polish Corridor' in 1931." Here are two other examples of the unique philatelic history associated with collecting Poland that had exposure to a large readership.

The November-December 2014 issue of *The Collectors Club* (of New York) *Philatelist* featured an article by Dr. James Mazepa and Robert Puchala, "Provisional Stationery For The Lublin Postal Administration: 1918-1919."

The Congress Book 2010 (American Philatelic Congress) featured an article by Dr. Jerzy W. Kupiec-Węgliński, titled, "Aerophilately and the Sieges of Przemyśl (1914-1922)." That Congress Book also featured an article by Dr. Ingert Kuzych, "Exceptionally Heavy Covers Flown on the World's First Regular Airmail Service." In Congress Book 2011 and 2012 are featured articles by Dr. Kupiec-Węgliński and Jacek Kosmala, titled "The Development of Airmail Services in Poland (1918-1928)" and "1929-1939." These articles are now featured in the quarterly *Polonus Bulletin* issues.

Our mission includes the promotion of Polish philately and the members mentioned above certainly reach beyond the Polonus membership to promote collecting Poland. Congratulations for a job well done and for helping us fulfill our mission.

Polonus Welcomes New Members

Congratulations to the five new members of our society. Please welcome them warmly if you see them.

1793 **Steve Bonowski**

1794 **Walter Malinowski Jr.**, P.O. Box 909, Robertsedale, AL 365676

1795 **Xavier Maillot**, 12 Route des Templiers, 52260 Beauchemin, France

1796 **David Laske**

1797 **Jamie Wirzman**

APS StampShow 2015

This show in Grand Rapids, Michigan was the site of our 13th Annual Meeting & Exhibition. It was held August 20-23, close to the publication deadline for this *bulletin*. Hence, coverage of the event will be featured in Bulletin #561, scheduled for release in mid-December.

World Stamp Show NY 2016

The 14th Annual Polonus Society Meeting & Exhibition will be held at the World Stamp Show at the Javits Center in New York City on May 28 - June 4, 2016. With less than a year to go before the "big apple" event, there are some critical actions that must be taken now.

These are:

1. If you did not submit the "Exhibit Application Form" to your commissioner by August 15, 2015, you are too late to consider exhibiting.

2. Visit the show website www.ny2016.org frequently, especially if you are planning to attend. There are many hotel alternatives and the sooner you book the better choices you have.

3. We have not as yet scheduled our Annual Membership Meeting as we would like to pick a date at which most of our members would be able to attend. Therefore this request: Please let me know (email: krpsl@earthlink.net; tel: (314) 821-6130; post mail: P.O. Box 240428, Ballwin, MO 63024-0428) as soon as possible if and when you are planning to attend WDD-NY2016.

4. This is a long show (eight days) and we have an obligation to staff the society table daily during show hours. Therefore this request: Please let me know (same contact info as in #3) as soon as possible if you can volunteer for staffing the society table and on which days/hours you are available.

We will keep you current on our website (under NEWS) and in the December and March bulletins.

FOR SALE

"GROSZY" 1950-52 collection consisting of 80 exhibition sheets and 8 stock books. This is the only known complete, type 1 to 48, collection. A Gold Medal winner. You can view this collection at www.polonus.org or at www.groszy.pl. Asking price is \$20,000 or best offer. Contact: via tel: (630) 501-1858 or via email: nzelwin@aol.com

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Philatelic journalist, editing articles about YMCA, American Joint Distribution Committee, and the American Red Cross in Wilno during 1919 - 1924 for upcoming *Polonus* bulletins would like to make contact with anyone having postal history or documents related to these topics. Please email scans (of both sides) to studijar@msn.com or call evenings at (708) 622-9101.

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Literature Review

Polish Military in WWII

by Piotr Gorzelańczyk

(translated by Bob Ogrodnik)

Philatelists interested in Polish military history should take note of a book authored by Jerzy Tokar, just released in Poland and offered for sale by Fischer. *Polish Military of World War II* (*Polskie Militaria z Okresu II Wojny Światowej*) consists of three parts:

- Polish soldiers interned in Hungary at the turn of 1939/1940;
- Methods of communication with Polish soldiers in the West 1940 - 1947;
- German censorship of correspondence 1939 - 1945.



The content is based on original mail correspondence during World War II, most of which passed through German censorship. Due to a lack of adequate explanation of the methods used in military correspondence by existing Polish philatelic literature, the author makes this an objective in his book. An equally important objective is an explanation of the methods of censoring and marking of foreign correspondence, which differed substantially from censorship during the First World War.

The book also contains many interesting details that are not widely known, such as, "secrets of safe-house mail drops in Lisbon Central, Caixa Polstal 506 and 512." The military correspondence is accurately described with particular emphasis on postal and censor markings.

This is a 142-page hardcover book with 400 illustrations, mostly in color. Price: 80.00 zł (including 5% VAT) + shipping cost (Poland - 7.20 zł for priority registered; Europe - 34.60 zł; USA - 43.30 zł).

Orders can be placed on the Fischer website: <https://efischer.pl/> or by mail: Fischer Sp.z.o.o., Rynek 11, 41-902 Bytom, Poland. Tel: +48 32 282-72-06. Account: PKO BP 30 1020 2368 0000 2702 0368 6938.

Book will be shipped after payment with note, "Polish Military of WWII by J. Tokar."



Welcome

to the
Polonus Store

(We're Always Open for Business)

The Polonus Store is open and sales have exceeded expectations. We still have ample Inventory of souvenir items from CHICAGOPEX 2014 and we have added a couple new items to the menu below. If you do not find the item you are searching for, let us know as we have a wide variety of POLPEX souvenir sheets, covers, show cards, etc.

Item 1 – Commemorative Catalogue \$2.00

A 52-page souvenir of the 75th anniversary celebration at CHICAGOPEX 2014 in Itasca, Illinois. This publication contains proclamations, congratulatory letters, listing of Polish exhibits and exhibitors, history of Polonus, timely articles, etc.

Item 2 – Show Covers \$5.00 ea. / set of 3 for \$12.00

Cachet covers featuring anniversary logo, Westerplatte, and Jan Karski with special personalized stamp issue and special show cancellation for each day of the show.

Item 3 – Cachet Envelopes..... \$1.00 ea. / 6 for \$5.00

Your choice of the three cachets available.

Item 4 – Personalized U.S. Postage (\$0.49) \$1.00 ea.

Limited printing in two styles featuring the Polonus anniversary logo. Available as single stamps or in strips of five stamps.

Item 5 – Polonus Lapel Pin..... \$5.00

Attractive red, white and black cloisonne lapel pin (¾" size).

Item 6 – Polonus Anniversary Shot Glass..... \$10.00

Perfect for toasting with Żubrówka. Supply limited and available on "first come – first served" basis.

Item 7 – POLPEX 1965 Souvenir Sheets (2) \$3.00

Two imperf sheets with descriptive folder honoring the "The Father of Modern Astronomy," Nicolaus Copernicus. See article on page 22.

Item 8 – The Occupation of Russia by the Polish 1 Corps..... \$10.00

This is the first POLONUS HANDBOOK, authored by Tadeusz Gryżewski and edited by James Mazepa in 1977. Act now as there are only 16 in our inventory. See page 7.

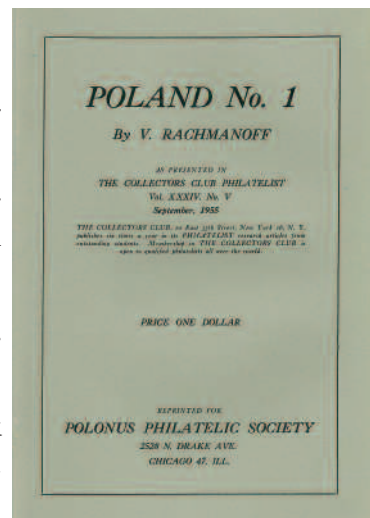
Item 9 - Poland No. 1 by V. Rachmanoff..... \$5.00

As presented in *The Collectors Club Philatelist* of New York in September 1955. Limited supply remaining at this reduced price.

Prices for the items listed above include shipping and handling to any destination in the USA. For shipments outside US destinations, the incurred cost will be added.

Inquiries and orders are to be sent to: **Bob Ogrodnik via snail mail to P.O. Box 240428, Ballwin, MO 63024-0428** or via email to krpsl@earthlink.net

Payments are to be made to: Polonus Philatelic Society via personal check or via PayPal (info@polonus.org) If paying by check, include payment with order, mailed to the above address.



New Issues

Polish Easter (*Polska Wielkanoc*)

These two stamps, denominated 2.35 zł and 5.20 zł, depict traditional decorated Easter eggs (*pisanki*) from two different regions of Poland. The 2.35 zł stamp shows a purple egg from the Opole region of Silesia near the Oder (*Odra*) River in southern Poland.

The 5.20 zł stamp shows a red egg from the Kurpiowska or White and Green Mountain Forest region of northeastern Poland. In addition, two colorful postal cards showing decorated Easter eggs were also issued; one denominated 2.35 zł shows a pink egg and one denominated 1.75 zł shows a green egg.



Date of Issue	March 6, 2015
Sheet Format	Single in sheet of 100
Printing Method	Rotogravure
Designer	A. Sancewicz
Size: stamp	25.5 x 31.25 mm

Organ Transplantation (*Transplantologia*)

This colorful 1.75 zł stamp recognizes the benefits of



medical organ transplantation. A tan caricature of an individual is shown with a hand over his/her heart, with a dark blue background. This stamp also raises the awareness of organ donation, from living and deceased. Poland

currently ranks in the middle among EU countries. There are appropriate legal regulations, well-organized legal structures, well-educated transplant teams, good transplantation results, and case registries. However, the need to increase the organs available remains a priority.

Date of Issue	March 20, 2015
Sheet Format	Single in sheet of 50
Printing Method	Photogravure
Designer	Maciej Jędrzyk
Size: stamp	39.5 x 31.25 mm

'IDA'

This 2.25 zł grayish stamp recognizes the award-winning Polish movie, "IDA," that was directed by Paweł



Pawlikowski in 2013 and written by him and Rebecca Lenkiewicz. The film won the 2015 Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film, thus becoming the first Polish film so honored. Set in Poland in 1962, the film is about a young woman who is about to become a Catholic nun. As an infant, she had been orphaned during World War II. She is advised by her prioress to visit her only known relative, an aunt Wanda. Upon locating her aunt, she discovers that her parents were Jewish and that her real name is Ida Lebentstein. They visit her birthplace and later she experiences profound transformational changes in her life.

Date of Issue	March 31, 2015
Sheet Format	Single in pane of nine with a label in center
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Aleksandra Pietrzak
Size: stamp	31.25 x 51 mm

100th Anniversary of Birth of Tadeusz Kantor

This 1.75 zł stamp honors Tadeusz Kantor, Polish assemblage artist, set designer, painter, theatre director and writer, who was born on April 6, 1915, at Wielopole



Skrzyńskie. Educated at the Jan Matejko Academy of Fine Arts, he is best known for his avant-garde work in stage design, including designs for "Saint Joan" (1956) and "Measure for Measure" (1956). He used stages that extended out into the audience as well as mannequins as real-life characters. His work in other productions included "The Cuddfish" (1956) and "The Water Hen" (1969). His "Dead

Class" (1975) starred himself as a teacher presiding over a class of apparently dead characters who are confronted by mannequins representing their younger selves.

He had an interesting and unique relationship with Jewish culture, despite being a nominal Catholic; he incorporated many elements of what was known as "Jewish theatre" into his works. Among his major writings and manifestos are "The Autonomous Theater" (1963), "Theatre Happening: The Theatre of Events" (1967), "The Informal Theatre" (1969), "The Zero Theatre" (1970) and "The Theatre of Death" (1975). The stamp, produced in dark blue and gray, shows a caricature of him smoking.

Date of Issue	April 3, 2015
Sheet Format	Single in pane of 12
Printing Method	Photogravure
Designer	Aleksandra Pietrzak
Size: stamp	31.25 x 51 mm

75th Anniversary of the Katyń Massacre
(75.Rocznica Zbrodni Katyńskiej)

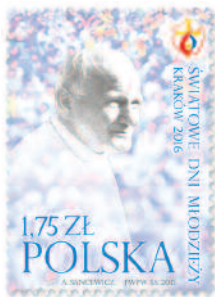
This 1.75 zł stamp recognizes the Katyń Massacre in World War II. At the direction of Soviet NKVD Chief Lavrentiy Beria, and with the approval of the Soviet Politburo and Joseph Stalin, an estimated 22,000 Poles were executed in 1940 in the Katyń Forest in Soviet Russia, the Kalinin and Kharkiv prisons, and a few other locations. Of the total killed by the Soviets, about 8,000 were military officers taken prisoner during the 1939 Soviet invasion of Poland; another 6,000 were police officers; and the rest were arrested Polish intelligentsia the Soviets deemed to be "intelligence agents:" gendarmes, landowners, saboteurs, factory owners, lawyers, government officials and priests.

Nazi Germany announced the discovery of mass graves in the Katyń Forest in 1943. When the London-based Polish government-in-exile asked for an investigation by the International Red Cross, Stalin refused to cooperate, blaming the Nazis for the atrocity. In 1944 President Roosevelt assigned his special emissary to the Balkans, Navy Lieutenant Commander George Earle, to investigate and report on Katyń. Earle concluded that the massacre was committed by the Soviets. After consulting with Elmer Davis, his Director of the Office of War Information, Roosevelt officially rejected Earle's conclusion, declared that he was convinced of Nazi Germany's responsibility and ordered Earle's report suppressed. When Earle formally requested permission to publish his findings, the President issued a written order to desist.

Similarly in England, Polish diplomat Edward

Bernard Raczynski and General Sikorski, in a private meeting with Winston Churchill, reported concrete proof that the Soviets were responsible for the massacre, but to no avail. It was not until 1990 that the Soviet Union officially acknowledged and condemned the mass killing and subsequent cover-up. The Soviet investigation confirmed responsibility for the massacre, but refused to classify it as a war crime or act of genocide.

Date of Issue	April 7, 2015
Sheet Format	Single in pane of 9
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Marzanna Dąbrowska
Size: stamp	31.25 x 39.5 mm



World Youth Day (Światowe Dni Młodzieży)

Two additional stamps, one valued at 1.75 zł and another at 5.0 zł, were issued to recognize World Youth Day, a recurring special international event of the Catholic Church scheduled to be held in Kraków in 2016. Please refer to the descriptive text for the two earlier stamp issues on this subject issued on December 20, 2014. The new 1.75 zł stamp shows former Pope John Paul II and the new 5.0 zł stamp shows his message "In You There is Hope" (*W Was jest nadzieja*).

Date of Issue	April 27, 2015
Sheet Format	Two different stamps in panes of 9 and 6
Printing Method	Photogravure
Designer	Agnieszka Sancewicz
Size: stamp	31.25 x 39.5 mm

Europa

This 5.0 zł stamp depicts a toy made of two joined spheres (chestnuts), one for a head and the other for the larger body of a figure, with match sticks for its arms, legs and nose. The theme for EUROPA 2015 is "Old Toys." Europa stamps are special issues



of European postal administrations under the aegis of Post-Europ, which defines a uniform theme each year. The first Europa stamps were issued in 1956.

Date of Issue	May 5, 2015
Sheet Format	Single in pane of 12
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Maciej Jędrzyk
Size: stamp	43 x 31.25 mm



70th Anniversary of the End of World War II

This 2.35 zł stamp shows a man kneeling in prayer before a helmet mounted on the barrel of a rifle with twigs of white flowers protruding from it. World War II is generally regarded as beginning with the German invasion of Poland on September 1, 1939, and for Poland and the rest of Europe, it ended on V-E Day (May 8, 1945) with the surrender of Germany. It is difficult to fully describe the enormous tragedy of World War II. Thus, the anniversary of the war's ending in Europe is certainly an appropriate time to remember all those who perished during this conflagration.

Date of Issue	May 8, 2015
Sheet Format	Single in souvenir sheet
Printing Method	Photogravure
Designer	Aleksandra Pietrzak
Size: stamp	31.25 x 43 mm (stamp only)

Let Us Rush to Love People

This 1.75 zł stamp recognizes the writings of Father John Twardowski (1915-2006), Polish poet and Catholic priest, who wrote contemporary religious lyrics in the form of short, simple poems, often humorous. He studied literature at the Józef Piłsudski University (University of Warsaw). During World War II he participated in the operations organized by the Armia Krajowa and later fought in the



Warsaw Uprising. After the war, he studied theology at the University of Warsaw, becoming a priest in 1948.

In 1959 he became provost of the Visitation Church. His writings were published in the Polish Catholic magazine, *Tygodnik Powszechny*. He first gained fame from his book titled, *Znaki Ufności* (Signs of Trust), and in subsequent years won numerous awards for his works of prose and poetry. A few of his other publications include *Uśmiech Pana Boga. Wiersze Dla Dzieci* (The Smile of God. Poems for Children), *Bog Prosi O Miłość – Gott Fleht Um Liebe* (God Asks for Love) and *Miłość Miłości Szuka* (Love Seeks Love).

He is buried at the Sanctuary of Divine Providence on the outskirts of Warsaw.

Date of Issue	May 29, 2015
Sheet Format	Single in pane of 12
Printing Method	Offset
Designer	Marzanna Dąbrowska
Size: stamp	31.25 x 43 mm

World Blood Donor Day

Two hearts are shown in bright red with white background on this 1.75 zł stamp commemorating World Blood Donor Day (*Światowy Dzień Krwiodawcy*). The World Health Organization (WHO) proclaimed June 14, 2015, as World Blood Donor Day. This year's theme is "Thank you for saving my life" and encourages donation worldwide under the slogan "Give Freely, Give Often.



Blood Donation Matters." About 108 million units of donated blood are collected globally each year, most in the higher-income nations. Thus, the greatest present need is found among the middle- and lower-income countries.

Date of Issue	June 14, 2015
Sheet Format	Single in sheet of 50
Printing Method	Photogravure
Designer	Andrzej Gosik
Size: stamp	31.25 x 39.5 mm

Moving?

Please send address changes to:
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